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Soviet Use of Japanese POW Labor

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POW labor battalion of approximately 2,000 men was engaged in digging holes for the construction of fortifications. The holes were dug in a "T" shape on the hills facing Pos'yet Harbor, approximately fifteen kilometers from the city of Pos'yet. They were dug to a depth of ten meters. A sketch follows:

SCALE 1 inch = 10 meters

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2. Three battalions of POW's were engaged in the digging operation described above. However, the duties of seven other battalions of prisoners in the area are not known. ---
3. The excavation was carried out from October 1945 to June 1946; it did not progress as the Soviet authorities had anticipated. Source's battalion dug only ten holes during this period. The superintendents, concerned about the slow progress of the work, were especially worried after "working inspectors from Moscow" conducted an inspection.

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Treatment and Political Indoctrination of Japanese POW's

4. Food was comparatively plentiful, but the diet lacked vegetables and beri-beri was prevalent. All the prisoners' clothing, except that being worn at the time of disarmament, was confiscated and no clothing was issued. Because of inadequate clothing a great many prisoners froze to death, some while digging graves for those already dead.
5. Wooden barracks were used as hospitals. One infirmary was allotted for every three battalions. Japanese doctors and hospital orderlies staffed the hospitals and the equipment was that carried by the Japanese army. Patients were forced to work; many were beaten to death or shot.
6. Regular lectures on the virtues of Communism were delivered, usually by Korean interpreters. A great many Koreans wore Soviet uniforms; they were used as guards and interpreters and were extremely cruel.

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